

Claims:

1. The use of partially saponified vinyl ester homopolymers and copolymers in hot-melt adhesive compositions, characterized in that the vinyl ester homopolymers and copolymers have a molecular weight $M_w < 70000$ and the partially saponified vinyl ester homopolymers and copolymers have a degree of hydrolysis of 62 to 86 mol%, and the hot-melt adhesive composition contains no mannitol.
2. The use as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the degree of hydrolysis is 65 to 75 mol%.
3. The use as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the molecular weight M_w is 5000 to 30000.
4. The use as claimed in claim 1 to 3, characterized in that partially saponified vinyl acetate homopolymers, partially saponified vinyl acetate-vinyl laurate copolymers, partially saponified vinyl acetate-crotonic acid copolymers, or mixtures thereof are used.
5. The use as claimed in claim 1 to 4, characterized in that the hot-melt adhesive composition further comprises sorbitol.
6. The use as claimed in claim 1 to 5, characterized in that the hot-melt adhesive composition further comprises waxes.
7. The use as claimed in claim 1 to 6, characterized in that the hot-melt adhesive composition further comprises fatty acid esters.
8. The use as claimed in claim 1 to 7, characterized in that the hot-melt adhesive composition further

comprises water-soluble plasticizers.

9. The use as claimed in claim 1 to 8, characterized
in that the hot-melt adhesive composition further
5 comprises antioxidants.
10. The use as claimed in claim 1 to 9 as adhesives
for paper, paperboard, cardboard, wood, and
plastic.

New version of the claims:

1. The use of partially saponified vinyl ester homopolymers and copolymers in hot-melt adhesive compositions, characterized in that the vinyl ester homopolymers and copolymers have a molecular weight $M_w < 70000$ and the partially saponified vinyl ester homopolymers and copolymers have a degree of hydrolysis of 62 to 86 mol%, having randomly distributed vinyl alcohol units, and the hot-melt adhesive composition contains no mannitol and no anionic emulsifier.
2. The use as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the degree of hydrolysis is 65 to 75 mol%.
3. The use as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the molecular weight M_w is 5000 to 30000.
4. The use as claimed in claim 1 to 3, characterized in that partially saponified vinyl acetate homopolymers, partially saponified vinyl acetate-vinyl laurate copolymers, partially saponified vinyl acetate-crotonic acid copolymers, or mixtures thereof are used.
5. The use as claimed in claim 1 to 4, characterized in that the hot-melt adhesive composition further comprises sorbitol.
6. The use as claimed in claim 1 to 5, characterized in that the hot-melt adhesive composition further comprises waxes.
7. The use as claimed in claim 1 to 6, characterized in that the hot-melt adhesive composition further comprises fatty acid esters.

8. The use as claimed in claim 1 to 7, characterized in that the hot-melt adhesive composition further comprises water-soluble plasticizers.
- 5 9. The use as claimed in claim 1 to 8, characterized in that the hot-melt adhesive composition further comprises antioxidants.
- 10 10. The use as claimed in claim 1 to 9 as adhesives for paper, paperboard, cardboard, wood, and plastic.